

Jacobus Borough Council Meeting
Meeting Date: March 5th 2025

Call to Order

Council President Sandy Sheffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was offered by Council President Sandy Sheffer followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present were Sandy Sheffer, Mayor Lance Beard, Donald Wright, Phyllis Bowers, William Rodgers, Jeff Hammers, Dawn McElhiney, and Solicitor Jason Sabol. Jill Conner was absent.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

- Minutes of February Council Meeting – Donald Wright made a motion to approve the February Council Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dawn McElhiney. Motion carried unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report – Profit & Loss Statement along with bank account summaries were reviewed by all council members present. A motion was made by Donald Wright to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Dawn McElhiney seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Persons on the Agenda/Public Participation

- Mike Wakeling, Jacobus Jackals – Mr. Wakeling was present to request permission to use the baseball field for the upcoming season and to have the fee for use be waived. A motion was made by Donald Wright to grant the Jackals use of the baseball field for the upcoming 2025 season, and waive their fee, provided the Jackals abide by the rules in the agreement and to take care of the facilities. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Matthew Von Stein, citizen – Mr. VonStein was present to request a "Stop" sign or some form of speed mitigation on Woodland Drive. His concern is for the safety of children in the area as often vehicles speed along Woodland, and recently a driver lost control and hit the light-post in front of his house. A few neighbors who live in the general area also were present to voice their concerns. Phyllis Bowers stated that the York County Regional Police Department did a speed study last year but faced it the wrong way and should be redone in the opposite direction. Donald Wright disagreed with her statement and stated that the speed data was taken for both directions of

traffic on Woodland. Jeff Hammers stated that the more concerning issue would be distracted drivers, those that are using cell phones. Donald Wright suggested that perhaps radar signs that show vehicular speed may help drivers slow down. Mr. Hammers did not agree with that idea as he thinks it will particularly encourage young drivers to speed, to see how fast they can go. A motion was made by Donald Wright to put up “all-way stop” signs at the junction of Wildasin and Woodland, with future traffic-study if needed. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously. A resident mentioned that he would also like to see a “stop” sign installed by the “tot-lot” in Wellington Hills. Mr. Wright stated that it had previously been approved by council to do so. Currently waiting on the sign company to install.

- Terry Heidler, 21 Geiselman Drive – Mr. Heidler was present to inquire about regulations for renting rooms out at a property which he owns within the Borough. Donald Wright informed him that he would need to check with the Borough’s zoning and code officer if it would be permissible. Phyllis Bowers stated that “boarding houses” should not be allowed in the Borough, to which Attorney Sabol stated that “boarding houses” are permissible only in Commercial zones. Ms. Bowers then stated that all rentals within the Borough should be regulated, where landlords have to register their rental properties with the Borough and properties inspected regularly for compliance. Attorney Sabol stated that in order for the Borough to regulate rental properties, where such properties are registered and inspected, the Borough will have to have a “rental property registration” ordinance. Donald Wright stated that he is against governing citizens who rent out their properties to supplement their income. Jeff Hammers stated that he can see both sides of the argument. Donald Wright made a motion to approve Attorney Sabol to research what other similar sized municipalities have in place to regulate their rental properties and report at next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.
- Jordan Shenk, Site Design Concepts (SDC) – Mr. Shenk was present to report on the following:
 - Stormwater Management Site Plan for 257 N Main Street (John’s RV) – Mr. Grim submitted an updated security estimate to SDC, reviewed and approved by Mr. Shenk. The new bond amount is now approximately \$92,000.00. The Operation & Maintenance agreement has been reviewed by Attorney Sabol and fully endorsed and recorded. Waiting now for Mr. Grim to obtain and submit his bond for the project.

- Meadow Street Drainage repairs – Mr. Shenk reported that a Street-Opening permit had been issued to Columbia Gas on February 5th 2025 to relocate the gas line on Meadow Street. However, a date has not yet been set by Columbia Gas for the work. Meanwhile, SDC has created an easement exhibit plan for the location and is awaiting for an easement agreement that will be suitable to present to the affected landowners.
- Water Street – Mr. Shenk reported that the turnaround work on Water Street has been completed by York Water Company. The next step is for Columbia Gas to begin their gas line replacement work on Water Street, at which time SDC can examine the excavation and determine whether a full-depth reclamation for the roadway is warranted.
- Wildasin Drive - Mr. Shenk reported that a water pipe broke on February 19th 2025 on Wildasin. York Water Company was contacted by local residents and emergency repair was made overnight. An emergency Street-Opening permit was not obtained for the work. Mr. Shenk is working with York Water Company to coordinate with their contractor as to when the permanent patch will be installed to the area of repair. York Water Company also agreed to clean up the silt that was washed down the length of Wildasin should it not be washed off by rain.
- Craig Lipinski, Goodwill Fire Company – Mr. Lipinski reported that there were 32 response calls in February nine of which were within Jacobus. Total response calls to-date for the year were 61. The Fire Company’s Bingo and Breakfast Buffet fundraisers continue to be well attended. Mr. Lipinski also stated that the Sporsman’s Bingo fundraiser will be held on March 29th. Donald Wright asked about the firehouse’s expansion project, to which Mr. Lipinski stated that there are no current plans for expansion.
- Al Diehl, Jacobus Lions Ambulance Club – Mr. Diehl reported that for February, there were 113 total response calls, of which 11 were for within the Borough. This is an increase from February of last year, where there were only six response calls with the Borough. Mr. Diehl also reported that the Ambulance Club’s staffing is back to its regular number and therefore functioning back at a normal level.
- **Action to be Taken**
None at this time.

Borough Reports

- **Mayor & Emerg. Mgmt.** – Mayor Lance Beard reported the following:
*YCRPD report for January 2025 - there were 45.88 Service Hours, 30.98 Administrative Hours, with a running total of 9.06 hours. There were 13 Response Calls within the Borough. *There were two Fire Police requests.
- **Office Manager**
 - Annual Municipal Recycling Report – the report was submitted for grant considerations.
 - Wildcat Girls Youth Lacrosse – the Wildcat Youth Lacrosse team, comprising of K-2 girls, asked permission to use the field North of the playground at the community park for practices twice a week from March till May. Donald Wright stated that provided the team presents proof of insurance with the Borough names as additionally insured, the team can use said area for their practices.
 - Park facilities – de-winterization of all park facilities have been scheduled for March 30th with Miller Home Climate Control.
 - Gas line replacement – Columbia Gas had scheduled to replace gas lines from Main Street through to the municipal building the week of March 24th. The new line will run from Main Street into Church Street, down Cherry Lane to the meter on South-side of the building. The building’s generator and furnace will then be scheduled for servicing after the new line has been installed.
- **Solicitor** – Attorney Sabol stated that he will prepare material for discussion on rental properties within the Borough at next council meeting.
- **Streets** – Donald Wright reported that the road sign at Valley Road and Pleasant is down, and already placed in the Borough building for Gemmill to replace.
- **Buildings and Grounds** – *Jacobus Lions Club asked for the park rental fee be waived for the Fourth of July Blast. Donald Wright made a motion to waive the park rental fee for the Lions Club Fourth of July Blast event. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously;
*Mayor Beard would like to schedule a time for all on council to gather for “spring cleanup” at the park. Donald Wright suggested for one evening the first week of May. A specific day/time to be determined closer to May.

New Business – none at this time.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Donald Wright to adjourn the meeting at 7:43. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hammers. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sue Cheah
Office Manager/Treasurer